

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 2 beginning at line 14 as follows:

“Of the 3,000 waste sites disclosed by DOE, the total cleanup cost, by physicochemical methods, was estimated in 1988 to be about \$90 billion (U.S. Government Accounting Office, GAO, 1988) and more recently between \$189 and \$265 billion, over a 70 year period (1996 Baseline Environmental Management Report (~~visited September 27, 1999~~) <http://www.em.dpe.gov/bemr96/>). DOE budget projections for cleanup activities for just the next ten years exceed \$60 billion (McCullough *et al.*, 1999). These sites, therefore, represent defined targets for less expensive *in situ* bioremediation technologies utilizing specialized microorganisms that can remediate both metallic and organic contaminants. The utility of microbiological methods for the treatment of highly radioactive waste environments will largely be determined by the ability of microorganisms catalyzing the desired function(s), to survive and function under radiation stress.”